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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,687	10/16/2001	Craig R. White	10011785-1	3774

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

ALI, MOHAMED HATEM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3609

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,687

Applicant(s)

WHITE, CRAIG R.

Examiner

Mohamed H. Ali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/16/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of invention 1, (claims 1-8) in the reply filed on Feb 21, 2007 is acknowledged. New claims 21-26 are added, and claims 9-20 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the recitations "the" at lines 3,4,5, and 6 lack proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (6,385,675 B1).

As per claims 1 and 4, Yamaguchi discloses an electronic transaction recording system for accumulating data from a printer (100), the system comprising:

a billing manger (see col.2, 101H), which manages the billing policies (Col.2, L 60-62) for the printer device;

a billing system (101 I), which accumulates information on the occurrence of predetermined events and generates an accounting of usage based on the accumulated information and associates the accounting of usage with a predetermined unit of usage (see col. 2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3);

at least one database for storing a user's account information in terms of the predetermined unit of usage (see col. L 47-48); and

wherein the billing system periodically updates the user's account information and issues an accounting of costs to the user (see col. 2, L 27-35 and col.3, L 4-8).

As per claims 2 and 3, Yamaguchi discloses that the predetermined unit of usage predetermined token number for each event receiving from the printer device determines the token charge assigning to an account (see col.1, L 35-55, via page unit as token and plurality of operational mode as event and based on command from the

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host computer make the total charge for the printing to the host computer through a circuit 100F for managing and logging each job as an account).

As per claim 7, Yamaguchi discloses that a configuration unit coupled to the billing policy database for updating and configuring billing policies for new users (see col.2, L 65-67 host computers-102 may be new users to be configured by the controller 101 I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 5,6,8 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (US 6,385,675 B1) in view of Lamming et al (US 2003/0050963 A1)

As per claims 5 and 6, Yamaguchi discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, but fails to explicitly disclose a mobile access unit coupled to the billing manager and selected from the group consisting of a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a mobile computer.

However Lamming et al discloses the concept of having a mobile access unit (called mobile computing device coupled) to the billing manager and selected from a group including mobile phone, PDA, portable computers (see para 0048)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing system of Yamaguchi to include the procedure of printing online by mobile access unit as taught by Lamming in order to bridge wireless communication between a document server and an output device such as a Printer from any place for printing.

As per claims 21, 22, 23 and 24, Yamaguchi discloses the system comprising plurality of printer devices connected over a network (see col. 2, L15-30),

the billing manager (see 101 I) is coupled to each printer device for determining the amount of printer usage and associating a predetermined amount of token values with the costs of printing(s col.2, L 62-67 and col. 3, L 1-3); and

the billing system further maintains accounting records of user and associating user account information with the value of the tokens and storing account information in an account records database (see col. L 47-4).

a billing policies database, which includes billing policies for the printer devices such that the each printer device uses at least one billing policy to determine the cost of each operation, performed on the printer (see col.2, L 27-35 and col.3, L 4-8).

However Yamaguchi fails to explicitly disclose that each printer device can receive the content from a mobile access unit and print the content in response to an authorization process.

Lamming et al discloses the concept of having each printer device receiving content from a mobile access unit to print the content in response to an authorization (see para 0057, 0058 and 0105).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing System of Yamaguchi to include the requirement of receiving the content from the mobile unit as taught by Lamming et al in order to facilitate the transfer of contents from the mobile access unit to the printing device over wireless communication channel to improve efficiency and easy working situation with printing devices.

As per claim 25, Yamaguchi discloses that a user configuration unit coupled to the billing policies database for updating and configuring billing policies for new users (see col.2, L 65-67 host computers-102 may be new users to be configured by the controller 101 I).

As per claims 8 and 26, Yamaguchi teaches all elements of the claimed invention, but fails to explicitly disclose the billing system can be either a back office billing system or Internet Settlement Model.

However Lamming et al disclose the concept of having a billing system can be either a back office system or Internet Settlement Model (see para 0150 and 0038 for WAN and mechanism for centralized services with accounting and billing).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Printing System of Yamaguchi to include the billing and accounting system done in back office system with the centralized office

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computer server back up or through Internet Settlement Model from WAN network facility as taught by Lamming et al in order to facilitate wireless transmission.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Caffary (US 7,190,478 B2) discloses about network tracking system.

Leskuski (US 2002/0138378 A1) discloses for retrieving and modifying data records for rating and billing purposes.

Aikens et al (US 6,216,113 B1) teaches about an electronic network transaction system for accumulating billing data for printing machines on the network.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed H. Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-3021. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-30 to 5.00.

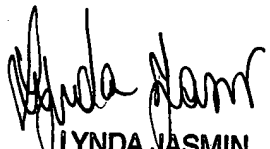
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on 571-270-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mohamed H Ali
Examiner
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MA

 4/2/07
LYNDA JASMIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER